

Policy Research & Analysis

The Office of Policy Research & Analysis (OPRA) supports the Chairman and NEA staff with statistical and other information about the agency's applications and awards, including grantee and applicant profiles, the distribution of awards by state and artistic discipline, and analysis of overall trends in NEA funding. The Office's Research Division issues periodic reports on larger issues affecting artists and arts organizations that are distributed to Congress, the arts community, and the public. These reports and analyses help shape changes in the NEA's grantmaking policies.

One of OPRA's projects is a geographic database that provides a comprehensive picture of the broad reach of NEA-supported activities. In FY 2002, the NEA awarded more than 2,200 grants and other awards. Through touring and outreach activities in communities beyond grantee home-base locations, these grants resulted in approximately 7,200 additional activities in approximately 4,000 different communities.

In 2002, the Research Division continued to support work on several major projects to improve the quantity and quality of data and analyses on the condition and needs of individual artists, arts organizations, and arts audiences.

The Division oversaw the completion of the NEA's fifth national arts participation survey. The 2002 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts (SPPA) was conducted by the Census Bureau as a supplement to the Current Population Survey in August 2002. The Division sponsored a research report and research note based on the results of the 2002 SPPA, released in July 2003. The research report not only summarizes the survey results but also makes comparisons to the prior surveys over the last 2 decades (1982 and 1992). Also funded in 2002 were eight research monographs, which will provide more in-depth analysis of topics such as differences in participation by age and geographic location.

In 2002, the Division published Research Report #43, *Changing the Beat: A Study of the Worklife of Jazz Musicians*. This report described a study of jazz artists in four U.S. cities: Detroit, New Orleans, New York, and San Francisco, conducted by the Research Center for Arts and Culture at Columbia University. The study included two surveys—the first was a telephone survey of a random sample of musicians (totaling 2,500) in the four cities who were members of the American Federation of Musicians, and the second was a personal interview survey that used a community-based sampling technique called Response Driven Sampling (RDS). RDS was used in each city to allow jazz artists to identify other jazz musicians to survey and therefore penetrate more deeply into the jazz community. This project provides a context that documents how the jazz community is organized in each of the study cities, the condition of jazz artists in each location, the resources and support systems employed in each site, as well as the challenges faced by jazz artists in each community. A detailed needs assessment created from comments from the jazz artists themselves is also part of the report.

